Loan from Asian Development Bank

*279. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY:
SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railway Board failed to send its delegation to negotiate loan for expansion of Railway line, purchase of locomotives etc. with Asian Development Bank; if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether it is a fact that previous loan amounting to 190 million doller sanctioned by ADB remains unutilised till this day, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether this is likely to effect adversely to Railways' programme to produce 30,000 wagons this year?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Asian Development Bank had suggested that negotiation of loan for the Second Railway Project be held from the 27th to 30th August, 1991. As these dates were not suitable, it was suggested that new dates be proposed. The negotiations are now expected to be held shortly.

(b) Till the end of August, 1991, of the total amount of US $ 190 million claims for reimbursement for US $ 2.7 million have been sent to the Bank, and action is in progress to step up the utilisation.

(c) Current year's programme envisages manufacture of 25,120 wagons, which is independent of this loan.

Study of water resources in Rajasthan

*280. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to conduct any study and locate water resources in Rajasthan; if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government are aware of a French proposal which was received long back about their efforts in making such study alongwith finalcial assistance to this respect; and

(c) if so, what steps Government have taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Under Indo-French Collaboration a Pilot Project for Ground Water Management and salinity in TIBI Sector of Indira Gandhi Nahar Project (Rajtsthan), has been prepared. The French assistance proposed is French Franc 4.1 million. The Project has already been approved by the concerned technical organisation of the Ministry.

Volcanic flames in the Islands of Andaman

1694. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the barren island which is volcanic in the Islands of Andamans continues to spit fire for the last three months;

(b) whether Government hape conducted tny study about the volcanic flames causing problems in the barren island; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government for finding out the reasons of volcano in that island and also to save the Island from disaster?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAVA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Geological Survey of India which is study the volcanic eruption is of the view that the present volcanic eruption of Barren Island in Andaman and Nicobar Island is due to existence of volcanic belts with deep seated tectonic causes. Volcanic activity is a natural phenomenan and the outflow of volcanic lava and ash cannot be checked. The present eruption is on a low key. Since there is no human habitation upto a distance of 70 kilometers from the volcano, there is no

danger to human life. The activity is being monitored by using satellite date by Department of Space. The Scientists and Experts have not predicted any definite risk to the Islands becaurse of the volcanic eruption.

Traffic system in Delhi

1695. SHRI JAGADISH JANI:
SHRI ANANT RAM JAISWAL:
CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the heavy strain in the traffic system in Delhi/New Delhi;

(b) if so, whether any long term plan is proposed to be implemented to cope with the growing traffic in the Capital;

(c) whether Government propose to set up a unified metropolitan transport authority to tackle the growing traffic problem; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) As a step towards reducing the traffic congestion in Delhi, the Delhi Administration got the techno-economic feasibility study for the introduction of Mass Rapid Transit System through Rail India Technical & Economical Services Ltd. The study has recommended the introduction of a multi modal mass repid transit service for Delhi as a long term measure. Setting up a single transport authority for handling the traffic and transportation of Delhi is another recommendation made by RITES. The report has been studied by the Delhi Administration and also by the Government of India. A number of discussions with the concerned agencies have been held. A project involving such a large investment as Rs. 5378 cr. requires preparation of detailed project reports, analysis of the implication on the land use, Delhi Master Plan and so on. Avenues for funding will also have to be identified before the work on the project is commenced.

(c) and (d) The Government of India have already constituted a high power committee of directions under the chairmanship of LT. Governor of Delhi to go into various aspects including setting up of a single transport authority as also identification of funds for the construction, etc. of the project.

Decentralization of procurement and storage of foodgrains

1696. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a need to decentralise the procurement and storage of foodgrains;

(b) whether this process will ensure a greater involvement of the people; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) to (c) The foodgrains (wheat, paddy and coarsegrains) are procured for Central Pool by Food Corporation of India in various States/Union Territories, in collaboration with the State Governments and their procuring agencies against voluntary sale by farmers under Government's price support scheme. These grains are thus procured directly from the farmers by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) and State agencies. However, States have been requested to involve their agencies like Cooperatives, Civil Supplies Corporation, etc. in a greater measure, to act as agents of FCI, so that procurement operations could be further extended, even in areas where State Governments have not been able to make regulated markets effective. As far as storage is concerned, FCI and Central warehousing Corporation make it's own arrangement, whereas at State level, the State Warehousing Corporations and rural godowns provide storage facilities to clients including farmers.